

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
January 16, 2014

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Michelle Durocher and David White of the Commission. Chris Naylor was not present as he has resigned. Also present were Melissa MacDonald, L.A., DPW Director Michael Rademacher, Jane Howard, Karen Grossman and Michael Ratner.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

White/Coleman motioned to approve the 12/5/13 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Connors/Coleman motioned to approve the 12/19/13 **minutes** with edits, motion passed unanimously.

The Commission edited the final version of the **2013 Annual Report** and instructed Ms. Beckwith to submit it to Manager's office the next day.

At the Commission's request, the DPW made **No Dumping signs** for some Arlington Conservation Lands (Woodside Ln, Stone Rd and some others). Ms. Beckwith will direct DPW personnel to the locations for installation.

8pm **Discussion** - Symmes

The property boundary plan is not complete and the Conservation Restriction must include this. The new signs will be placed on posts. A site walk will be done after those are installed.

This item is continued to 2/6 at 8pm.

8:15pm **Request for Amended Order of Conditions** – 26 Lakeview St.

Ms. MacDonald presented the plan to amend the existing permit for changes in landscaping on the property. The initial permit was for only the addition on the house but no landscaping work. The new work will include moving existing plants, installing two new patio areas, and new mostly native plants. No trees will be removed. Most of the staging will take place on the driveway.

White/Connors motioned to close the hearing and also then moved to approve the amendment; motions passed unanimously.

8:30pm **Request for Determination of Applicability** - snow storage at Arlington Reservoir parking lot

Mr. Rademacher explained the temporary use of this parking lot for snow storage as the Town pursues other locations for a permanent facility for this use. He hoped that the Town would find other locations in less than three years. Three comments were received and one included the need to protect the new small trees along the Lowell St side of the storage area. Mr. Rademacher committed to replacing any trees if they were damaged. The snow should be piled to a maximum of 8 feet high and then they would remove it if more snow disposal was necessary.

Mr. Rattner asked if there were any other locations in town for this activity. He suggested a location next to Alewife Brook. Mr. Rademacher said that no other spot was owned by the Town; the spot suggested was owned by DCR.

The Commission discussed that this was not a impediment to taking enforcement about other snow disposal work because the snow in this location will melt into the gravel surfaced parking lot which is a large bowl; it doesn't slope toward the Reservoir. The melt water will infiltrate into the sub soil.

Mr. Rademacher made a commitment to return in the early spring (April) of 2014 to review the winter activity and report how it went, with the intent of adjusting or amending the plan for the following winter. This snow disposal plan complies with the DEP snow disposal guidelines.

White/Coleman motioned that even though the work is located within the Buffer Zone and Adjacent Upland Resource Area to the Arlington Reservoir, that it will not harm the resource area and that no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously. During discussion on the motion, Mr. Connors requested that the minutes reflect that DPW's representations that (i) snow storage at the Reservoir was a necessary temporary measure and (ii) that the Town was actively seeking alternate locations for snow storage had been key criteria in approving the request at this time.

#### 8:45pm **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination – Lot E Dothan Rd**

This hearing is continued as the Commission is awaiting a revised proposal from the peer review consultant it selected.

White/Connors motioned to continue this hearing to Feb. 6 at 8:15pm; motion passed unanimously.

#### 9pm **Discussion – Spy Pond Park renovations, maintenance**

Ms. Grossman reported on the developments to compose a renovation or maintenance plan for the Spy Pond Park. Shoreline stabilization, access control and new plantings are the goals of this new work. Town funds are not currently available, but this may be the impetus necessary to establish a new fund for park maintenance, similar to the Waterbodies Fund. Ms. Garnett suggested an approach that would provide some

guidance for some additional plantings in the near future and development of a shoreline stabilization plan that would be more expensive and implemented in the future.

Commission Business, cont.

White/Coleman motioned to support the **Waterbodies Fund** warrant article to ask Town Meeting for \$50K (the same as last year); motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens will forward a town-wide report from ACT for all their work on the Town's waterbodies.

White/Coleman motioned to propose a 2014 warrant article to increase the Commission's local permit application **fees**; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator